

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
HOUSTON DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

§

V.

§ CRIMINAL NO. H-12-218

PEDRO MELENDEZ

§

§

ORDER OF DETENTION PENDING TRIAL

In accordance with the Bail Reform Act, 18 U.S.C. § 3142(f), the Government moved for detention pending trial and the Defendant waived his right to a detention hearing. That waiver of detention hearing is entered in the record as Dkt. No. 17. I conclude that the following facts are established by a preponderance of the evidence or clear and convincing evidence and require the detention of the above-named defendant pending trial in this case.

Findings of Fact

[ ] A. Findings of Fact [18 U.S.C. § 3142(e), § 3142(f)(1)].

[ ] (1) The defendant has been convicted of a (federal offense) (state or local offense that would have been a federal offense if a circumstance giving rise to federal jurisdiction had existed) that is

[ ] a crime of violence as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 3156(a)(4).

[ ] an offense for which the maximum sentence is life imprisonment or death.

[ ] an offense for which a maximum term of imprisonment of ten years or more is prescribed in 21 U.S.C. ( ) § 801 et seq. ( ) § 951 et seq. ( ) § 955(a).

[ ] a felony that was committed after the defendant had been convicted of two or more prior federal offenses described in 18 U.S.C. § 3142(f)(1) (A)-(C), or comparable state or local offenses.

[ ] (2) The offense described in finding 1 was committed while the defendant was on release pending trial for a federal, state or local offense.

[ ] (3) A period of not more than five years has elapsed since the (date of conviction) (release of the defendant from imprisonment) for the offense described in finding 1.

[ ] (4) Findings Nos. 1, 2, and 3 establish a rebuttable presumption that no condition or combination of conditions will reasonably assure the safety of any other person and the

community. I further find that the defendant has not rebutted this presumption.

[X] B. Findings of Fact [18 U.S.C. § 3142(e)]

[X] (1) There is probable cause to believe that the defendant has committed an offense

[ X] for which a maximum term of imprisonment of ten years or more is prescribed in 21 U.S.C.

(X ) § 801 et seq. ( ) § 951 et seq. ( ) § 955(a).

[ ] under 18 U.S.C. § 924(c).

[ X] (2) The defendant has not rebutted the presumption established by finding 1 that no condition or combination of conditions will reasonably assure the appearance of the defendant as required or the safety of the community.

[X] C. Findings of Fact [18 U.S.C. § 3142(f)(2)]

[X] (1) Defendant is accused of violent crimes in aid of racketeering in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1959 and conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute Alprzolam (generic Xanax) in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 841, 846.

[X] (2) There is a serious risk that the defendant will flee.

[X] (3) Defendant represents a danger to the community.

[ ] (4) There is a serious risk that the defendant will (obstruct or attempt to obstruct justice) (threaten, injure, or intimidate a prospective witness or juror, or attempt to do so).

[X] D. Findings of Fact [18 U.S.C. § 3142(c)]

[ ] (1) As a condition of release of the defendant, bond was set as follows:

[ ] (2)

[X] (3) I find that there is no condition or combination of conditions set forth in 18 U.S.C. 3142(c) which will reasonably assure the appearance of the defendant as required.

[X] (4) I find that there is no condition or combination of conditions set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3142(c) which will reasonably assure the safety of the community.

Written Statement of Reasons for Detention

I find that the accusations in the indictment and the information submitted in the Pretrial Services Agency report establish by a preponderance of the evidence that no condition or combination of conditions will reasonably assure the appearance of the defendant as required and by clear and convincing evidence that there is no condition or combination of conditions of release that would reasonably assure the safety of the community.

I conclude that the following factors specified in 18 U.S.C. § 3142(g) are present and are to be taken into account:

1. Defendant is a 20 year-old citizen of the United States. He was born in Long Island, NY and has lived in the Houston area for 15 years. He lives with his mother and 2 siblings and maintains contact with his father who also lives in Houston. He has a passport and has traveled to El Salvador to visit extended family. He has a 4 year old child. He dropped out of school in 10th grade but has a GED.
2. Defendant's criminal history includes misdemeanor convictions for possession of marijuana and unlawfully carrying a weapon and an arrest for unlawfully carrying a weapon in a prohibited place. He admits smoking marijuana daily. He admits membership in the MS13 gang.
3. Defendant is charged with committing violent crimes in aid of racketeering in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1959 and conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute Alprazolam (generic Xanax), a schedule IV controlled substance, in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 841, 846. He faces a potential penalty of up to 10 years in prison.
4. Defendant has not rebutted the statutory presumptions that he is a flight risk and a danger to the community.
5. There is no condition or combination of conditions of release which would assure defendant's appearance in court or the safety of the community. Detention is ordered.

Directions Regarding Detention

It is therefore ORDERED that the defendant is committed to the custody of the Attorney General or his designated representative for confinement in a corrections facility separate, to the extent practicable, from persons awaiting or serving sentences or being held in custody pending appeal. The defendant shall be afforded a reasonable opportunity for private consultation with defense counsel. On order of a court of the United States or on request of an attorney for the Government, the person in charge of the corrections facility shall deliver the defendant to the United States Marshal for the purpose of an appearance in connection with all court proceedings.

Signed at Houston, Texas on April 23, 2012.

  
Stephen Wm Smith  
United States Magistrate Judge